This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A liquid-crystal ~~Liquid-crystal~~ switching element comprising:

a liquid-crystal layer, between two parallel substrates, having an initial alignment which is essentially parallel to the substrates and is essentially untwisted, wherein the layer has an optical retardation $[(d \cdot \Delta n)_{LC}]$ of from 0.07 μm to 0.17μm,

at least one ~~polariser~~ polarizer,

a device for generating an electric field, which is aligned essentially parallel to the substrates in the case of a liquid-crystal ~~materials~~ layer of negative dielectric anisotropy and is aligned essentially perpendicular to the substrates in the case of a liquid-crystal ~~materials~~ layer of positive dielectric anisotropy, and, ~~if desired,~~

at least one birefringent layer, which is either a $\lambda/2$ layer or two $\lambda/4$ layers, wherein the optical retardation of the birefringent layer or of the birefringent layers $[(d \cdot \Delta n)_{BL}]$ is either essentially half or essentially twice the optical retardation of the liquid-crystal layer.

~~, characterized in that the liquid-crystale layer has an optical retardation $[(d \cdot \Delta n)_{LC}]$ in the range from 0.005 μm to 0.46 μm.~~

2. (Currently Amended) A liquid-crystal ~~Liquid-crystal~~ switching element according to Claim 1, ~~characterised in that it contains~~ which comprises at least one linear ~~polariser~~ polarizer.

3. (Currently Amended) A liquid-crystal ~~Liquid-crystal~~ switching element according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the ~~twist angle of the~~ liquid-crystal layer has a twist angle (ϕ) ~~is~~ in the range from -25° to +25°.

4. (Currently Amended) A liquid-crystal ~~Liquid-crystal~~ switching element according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the optical retardation of the liquid-crystal layer is or can be switched from its initial value to essentially 0 nm.

5. (Currently Amended) A liquid-crystal ~~Liquid-crystal~~ switching element according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that it~~ which is a transmissive or transflective liquid-crystal switching element.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A liquid-crystal ~~Liquid-crystal~~ switching element according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the optical retardation of the liquid-crystal layer is from 0.12μm to 0.16μm.

8. – 13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A liquid-crystal ~~Liquid-crystal~~ switching element according to Claim ~~13,characterized in that~~ 1, wherein the ~~twist angle of the~~ liquid-crystal layer has a twist angle (ϕ) ~~is~~ of from ~~-25° to +25°~~ -10° to +10°.

15. (Currently Amended) A liquid-crystal ~~Liquid-crystal~~ switching element according to Claim ~~13,characterized in that~~ 1, wherein the optical retardation of the liquid-crystal layer in the fully switched state is from 0 nm to 80 nm~~, preferably from 0 nm to 40 nm~~.

16. (Currently Amended) A liquid-crystal ~~Liquid-crystal~~ switching element according to Claim ~~13, characterized in that~~ 1, wherein the liquid-crystal layer has positive dielectric anisotropy.

17. (Currently Amended) A liquid-crystal ~~Liquid-crystal~~ switching element according to Claim ~~13, characterized in that it can be operated~~ 1, wherein the element is capable of operating in normally white mode.

18. (Currently Amended) A liquid-crystal ~~Liquid-crystal~~ switching element according to Claim ~~13, characterized in that it~~ 1, which is a reflective liquid-crystal switching element.

19. (Currently Amended) A liquid-crystal ~~Liquid-crystal~~ switching element according to Claim ~~13, characterized in that it~~ 1, which is a transmissive liquid-crystal switching element.

20. (Currently Amended) A liquid-crystal ~~Liquid-crystal~~ switching element according to Claim ~~13, characterized in that it~~ 1, wherein the liquid-crystal layer has negative dielectric anisotropy.

21. (Currently amended) Electro-optical liquid-crystal device, ~~characterized in that it contains~~ which comprises a liquid-crystal switching element or a plurality of liquid-crystal switching elements according to Claim 1.

22. (Currently Amended) Electro-optical liquid-crystal display device according to Claim 21, ~~characterized in that it~~ which contains a multiplicity of liquid-crystal switching elements, and these are arranged in matrix form.

23. (Currently Amended) Electro-optical liquid-crystal display device according to Claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the liquid-crystal switching elements are addressed by means of a matrix of active electrical switching elements.

24. (Canceled)

25. (New) A liquid-crystal switching element according to claim 1, wherein the birefringence of the liquid-crystal layer is from 0.02 to 0.09.

26. (New) A liquid-crystal switching element according to claim 1, wherein the layer thickness of the liquid-crystal layer is from 0.05 to 7 μm.

27. (New) A liquid-crystal switching element according to claim 1, wherein the layer thickness of the liquid-crystal layer is from 1.5 to 4 μm.

28. (New) A liquid-crystal switching element according to claim 1, wherein the liquid-crystal layer has a temperature range of the nematic phase at least encompassing -20°C to 60°C.

29. (New) A liquid-crystal switching element according to claim 1, wherein the switching element has a sum response time for switching between V_{10} and V_{90} and back of at most 100 milliseconds.

30. (New) A liquid-crystal switching element according to claim 1, wherein the switching element has a sum response time for switching between V_{10} and V_{90} and back of at most 80 milliseconds.

31. (New) A liquid-crystal switching element according to claim 1, wherein the switching element has a sum response time for switching between V_{10} and V_{90} and back of at most 50 milliseconds.